

# Blankets for Babies



**CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY**  
OF SUMMIT  
WHERE LOVE LEADS TO ACTION



**Instructions & Suggestions**



## Receiving Blankets

Typically, the blankets consist of two layers joined by sewing together or by knotting together (as done by kids). Finished dimensions should be at least 36" x 30". Longer and/or wider are fine within reason. Keep in mind that any sides that are knotted to form fringe require the addition of 4" for each side that is knotted. Most fleece comes in 60" width. Flannel is typically a 54" width. Fleece is the preferred fabric. Where possible, the best results are obtained by having a pattern or graphic on one side and the other side to be a solid with a color matching one in the pattern.

When cutting we recommend using a rotary fabric cutter.

It requires substantially less effort than scissors and is much quicker. Fleece can be cut in half to 30" width assuming that two sides will be sewn. If the ends are sewn, a minimum length of 36" will work. If they are to be knotted by kids, a minimum length of  $36" + 8" = 44"$  is required. (I find that this works best at 54" rather than 44"). Fringe for knotting should be about 1" wide by 4"



Rotary Cutter

to 4½" long and is best cut when sides are already sewn together or if the pieces are pinned together. Cutting with both pieces together makes the knotting much easier and smoother.

A typical fleece project would involve cutting a 54" length (1½ yard) of fleece, then the same with the reverse side fleece. Place the two pieces together with outsides facing then cut the width in half to 30" resulting in two blanket pieces each measuring 30" wide by 54" long. Sew the sides together using a 3/8"-5/8" hem remembering to start and stop about 7 – 9" from each end to allow for the knotting of the fringe.. Be sure to lock stitch the beginning and end of your stitching. Press the seams open so they lay flat. Turn inside out, press seams flat, and if you want to, topstitch each side about ½" from the edge (topstitching is optional). You are now ready to cut the fringes at each end. Let the kids tie the knots and you have the finished blanket!

If you are stitching all sides, when joining the sides start sewing a little over half way down one side. Continue stitching all around the periphery ending about 5"-6" before the starting stitches. Carefully chamfer the corners (cut diagonally across) to keep the fabric from bunching in the corners when reversing. Reach through the opening and start pulling the fabric inside out. Press flat to make sure that all of the seams lay flat. Top stitch starting in one corner and be sure that the opening that you left is sewn shut by the top stitching. Voila, you are done!

## **Pattern for Hand-Tied Fleece Blanket**

### **Material needed:**

Two coordinating pieces of fleece 1½ yards each will make 2 blankets. Fleece normally comes in 60" width which should be cut in half to obtain 30" by 54" piece.

(You can also make one blanket from one piece of 1 ½ yard fleece, but both sides will have the same pattern.)

Trim the selvages and square off the ends. Place the coordinating pieces with right sides together and outside edges even. Sew the 54" sides together with approx ½" margin. Be sure to lock stitch the beginning and end of your stitching. Turn inside out so that the right sides face out. Top stitch the sewn sides about 1/2" from the edge.

### **YOU CAN PREPARE THE FLEECE UP TO THIS POINT FOR YOUNGER GROUPS.**

Lightly mark a line (with sewing chalk or even a pencil) 4" from each of the 30" sides. Mark fringe along these sides with cardboard template (1" by 4"). Cut both layers from outer edge to marked line 1" apart.

Starting in one corner, tie one piece of fringe from each piece together, using an overhand knot. Continue across each end, taking care not to stretch the fringe. Finished dimensions of blanket are 30" wide by 46" long.

### **Fleece Buying Information:**

The best results are obtained by having a pattern or graphic on one side and a solid with a matching color on the other side.

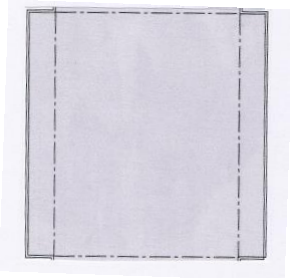
Suggested fabric quantities:

12 yards fleece = 8 blankets (no sew)	12 blankets (sewn)
24 yards fleece = 16 blankets (no sew)	24 blankets (sewn)

Fleece material can be found at WalMart, FabricLand & JoAnn Fabrics (look for sale), and on-line (Fleece Lady and others). Best pricing and selection is at [www.fleece-fabric.com](http://www.fleece-fabric.com).

**For real economy go online and search for fleece wholesalers. I find that my costs are well under \$4.00/ yard at the wholesalers instead of \$6-9.00 at the stores. I usually use [www.fleece-fabric.com](http://www.fleece-fabric.com) for best pricing.**

## Partial No Sew Blankets

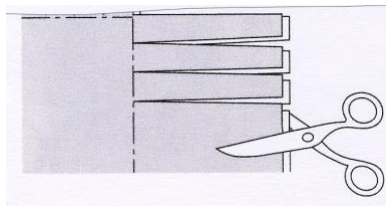


Material needed for one child's blanket:

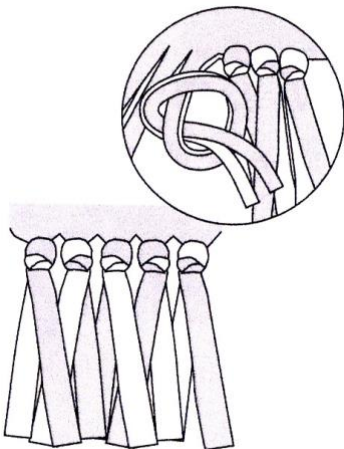
Two coordinating pieces of fleece 1½ yards each. Fleece normally comes in 60" width which should be cut in half to obtain 30" by 54" piece.

Trim the selvages and square off the ends. Place the coordinating pieces with right sides together and outside edges even. Sew the 54" sides together with approx ½" margin. Press the seams open so they lay flat. Turn inside out, press seams flat, and if you want to, topstitch each side about ½" from the edge (topstitching is optional).

Lightly mark a line (with sewing chalk or soap) 4" from each of the 30" sides



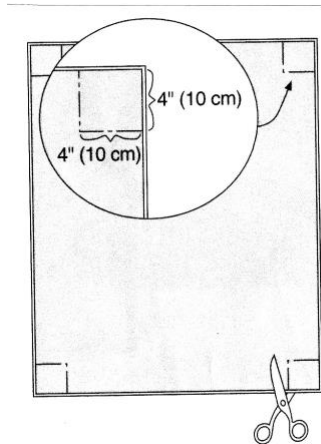
To make fringe, cut both layers from outer edge to marked line ¾" – 1" apart. (Use rotary cutter)



Starting in one corner, tie one piece of fringe from each piece together, using an overhand knot. Continue across each end, taking care not to stretch the fringe.

Finished dimensions of blanket are 30" wide by 46" long.

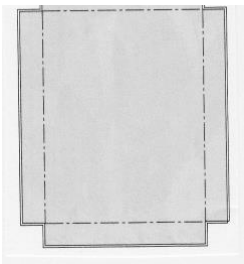
## No Sew Blankets



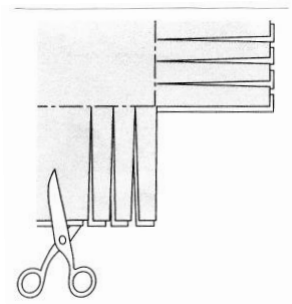
### Material needed for one child's blanket:

Two coordinating pieces of fleece 1½ yards each. Fleece normally comes in 60" width.

Trim the selvages and square off the ends. Place the coordinating pieces with wrong sides together and outside edges even.

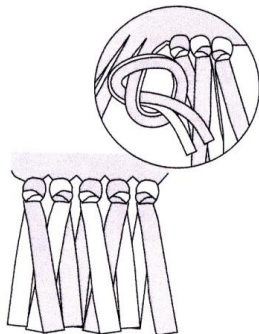


Mark and cut a 4" square from each corner



Lightly mark a line (with sewing chalk or soap) 4" from each of the 4 sides

To make fringe, cut both layers from outer edge to marked line  $\frac{3}{4}$ " – 1" apart.



Starting in one corner, tie one piece of fringe from each piece together, using an overhand knot. Continue around entire blanket, taking care not to stretch the fringe.

Finished dimensions of blanket are 46" wide by 46" long.